

visual signal to a replaceable security module 110 via an interface 112. For IS679 applications, replaceable security module 110 is a smart card or a PCMCIA card that is communicatively coupled to receiver 106 via an IS679 compatible interface 112. However, other types of interfaces may also be used to couple replaceable security module 110 to receiver 106. Replaceable security module 110 includes a de-scrambler 114 that removes the encryption placed into the encoded audio signals AS<sub>1</sub>, AS<sub>2</sub> through AS<sub>N</sub> and video signals VS<sub>1</sub>, VS<sub>2</sub> through VS<sub>N</sub> by scramblers S<sub>1</sub>, S<sub>2</sub> through S<sub>N</sub>. The de-scrambled single audio-visual signal is then returned to receiver 106 and decoded with a decoder 116 contained in receiver 106. The de-scrambled and decoded audio-visual signal is then provided to a display 118 to be displayed or otherwise viewed.

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**Please amend the claims as follows**

1. (Amended) A method of copy protecting a digital signal representing audiovisual information, comprising the steps of:

- (a) encoding the digital signal to obtain an encoded signal;
  - (b) converting the encoded signal into a copy protected signal using a copy protection function, wherein the function utilizes a data signal representing copy protection data;
  - (c) scrambling the copy protected signal to obtain a scrambled signal; and
  - (d) transmitting the scrambled signal and said data signal to a receiver.
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Please cancel claim 2 without prejudice.

8. (Amended) A system for copy protecting a digital signal representing audiovisual information, comprising:

- (a) an encoder to encode the digital signal to obtain an encoded signal;
- (b) a converter to convert the encoded signal into a copy protected signal

using a copy protection function, wherein the function utilizes a data signal representing copy protection data;

- a<sup>3</sup>
- (c) a scrambler for scrambling the copy protected signal into a scrambled signal; and
  - (d) a transmitter for transmitting the scrambled signal and the data signal to a receiver.
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Please cancel claim 9 without prejudice.

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a<sup>4</sup>

17. (Amended) The system of claim 15, wherein the descrambler module comprises a PCMCIA card.

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a<sup>5</sup>

19. (Amended) The system of claim 15, wherein the link comprises one or more communication mediums configured for carrying audio-visual signals.

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a<sup>6</sup>

25. (Amended) The method of claim 20, wherein the descrambler module comprises a PCMCIA card.

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a<sup>7</sup>

30. (Amended) The system of claim 28, wherein the descrambler module comprises a PCMCIA card.

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